

SHARPENING YOUR SWORD  
1 THESSALONIANS – AN INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY  
Homework for Sep 29, 2021

1 THESSALONIANS OVERVIEW & BACKGROUND

1 Read through the book of 1 Thessalonians twice before beginning this study and answer the following questions:

- > Who wrote the book? To whom?
- > What do you think are the general themes in this letter?

2 Read through the account of the planting of the church in Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9) and the events that followed directly after (Acts 17:10 -18:5).

- > How long did Paul preach in the Jewish synagogue before there was trouble?
- > Where did Paul go after leaving Thessalonica and why did he have to leave so soon again before going on to Athens?
- > Who did Paul send back to Thessalonica from Athens? When Paul left Athens, where did he go? Who arrived later?
- > What do all these comings and goings say to you about the early days of the Church?

CHAPTER 1:1-5: THE FAITH, HOPE, & LOVE OF THE THESSALONIAN CHURCH

3 Though Paul is the author of 1Thessalonians, he includes the men who minister with him in verse 1. What do you learn about these men from the following verses:

- > Silvanus (Silas): Acts 15:22, 32; Acts 15:40-18:6. (This gives an account of the experiences Silas would have had church-planting with Paul on what's known as Paul's "Second Missionary Journey.")
- > Timothy: Acts 16:1-3; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 2 Timothy 1:2-5; 3:10-15.

4 Paul's ministry can be summed up in the word *discipleship*. Read the following verses and tell what they teach about discipleship at its most basic level that is absolutely crucial for us to understand: Romans 16; Ephesians 6:21; Philippians 4:21; Colossians 4:7-15. How are you applying these principles to your life?

5 In verses 2-4, Paul's affection for the Thessalonians is manifested in what four actions?

6 As Paul is praying and thanking God, what three things does he remember in verse 3? Using Blue Letter Bible, look up the following phrases and record what you learn. Then examine your life. What area do you think needs some attention? What are some things you might prayerfully change or add?

- > work of faith
- > labor of love
- > patience of hope

7 In verse 4, what two things did Paul know about these young believers? Read also 2 Thessalonians 2:13 and Ephesians 1:4-5 for similar terminology.

8 Look up a *small* sampling of verses that reveal God's role in salvation. Take note of *who is doing the action*, then note *what they do* from the verses that follow. Then write out how the truth of this doctrine – God's sovereignty in salvation – has impacted you.

- > John 1:12-13; 6:44-45; Acts 13:48; Romans 8:3, 28-30; 9:23.
- > 1 Corinthians 1:30; Ephesians 1:4-5, 11; 2:5; Colossians 1:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; 2:12; 5:23.
- > 1 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5-7; James 1:18 1 Peter 2:9.

9 From verse 5, what four ways did the gospel come to the Thessalonians?

10 From the following verses, write a summary statement about the gospel: Romans 1:16; 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18, 24; 15:1-11; and Ephesians 2:1-10.

11 How did the four elements of the gospel mentioned in verse 5 work in you at the time of your salvation?

12 What did Paul mean when he said, "You know what kind of men we were among you for your sake" (v. 5)? See 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2 for more insight.

13 The gospel message was authenticated by the conduct of Paul and his missionary team. How does living in such a way that there is no discord between what you say and what you do validate the message? Are there any areas in your life in which your words and actions don't match up? What steps do you need to take to make sure they do line up with each other?